

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 715

By Terry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Captain Robert Canterbury for his heroism in saving the lives of two people.

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is proud to be the home of thousands of valiant men and women who serve as firefighters; these courageous professionals continue the time-honored tradition of public service by coming to the aid of their fellow citizens in times of fire, emergency, accident, and illness; and

WHEREAS, Robert Canterbury, a captain and veteran firefighter with the Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department (MFRD), is one such dedicated public servant; and

WHEREAS, a firefighter since 1988, when he joined the Christiana Volunteer Fire Department, Robert Canterbury joined MFRD in 1994 and earned his captain's bars in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Captain Canterbury is also a farmer, and he used his skills and equipment from that vocation to assist him in rescuing two people trapped in their motor vehicles after an accident that occurred near his home; and

WHEREAS, he had just returned home from a farming operation, when Captain Canterbury heard a loud crash; he soon discovered one person trapped in a wrecked SUV that was afire and another person trapped in the other vehicle involved in the crash; and

WHEREAS, Captain Canterbury immediately called 911 to report the accident, but also sprang into action himself and was assisted by neighbors on the scene; and

WHEREAS, unable to free the driver from the burning vehicle or to douse the flames, Captain Canterbury retrieved his tractor and some logging chains and used the farm equipment

to rip the door off the vehicle; two minutes after he had moved the driver to safety, the vehicle was burning end to end; and

WHEREAS, he then turned his attention to the other vehicle, in which the driver was trapped and unconscious; Captain Canterbury administered first aid and helped keep her airway clear until first responders arrived on the scene; and

WHEREAS, although he was off duty at the time, Captain Canterbury's professional instincts, noble character, and swift action helped save the lives of two people, and he should be commended for his great heart, quick thinking, and able body; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the approbation of Murfreesboro's fire chief, Captain Canterbury was honored with the STARS (Succeeding Through Attitudes Reflecting Service Excellence) Award for Outstanding Performance by the Murfreesboro City Council; and

WHEREAS, he also received the Hero Award from the Rutherford County NAACP for his decisive life-saving efforts on that fateful day; and

WHEREAS, a humble man, Captain Canterbury modestly asserts that any of his colleagues would have acted in a like manner and that his heroism only amounts to one neighbor helping another neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Robert Canterbury has performed the ultimate in public service, and he is most deserving of our commendation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and honor Captain Robert Canterbury of the Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department for his heroism in saving the lives of two people involved in a motor vehicle accident near his home and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.